

GREEK INSCRIPTION NORTH OF DAMASCUS GATE

IN the Jerusalem volume of "Memoirs" will be found a collection of numerous Greek texts of the same character as that published in the last *Quarterly Statement*. They come from the Wâdy Rabâbeh cemetery and from other parts of the town. In the Muristan I found such a Greek text, which cannot well be older than 900 A.D. Ἐτικὶ διαφερουσα Μηνα υπερ Ωπρου (Jerusalem vol., p. 426). At the church by Jeremiah's Grotto, Lieut. Mantell and I copied another text of the same character. It was originally written across two slabs, and we only obtained the right hand halves of the lines (Jerusalem vol., p. 392). This was also a deacon's tombstone.

The text from Boeckh given by Mr. A. S. Murray is only a bad copy of the inscription on the tomb of Thecla Augusta (9th century), fully described in the Jerusalem volume of the "Memoirs" (page 418). This is one of texts in the cemetery of St. Zion, in Wâdy Rabâbeh.

The Christians were still powerful in Palestine under the Arab Khalifs, and the tombstones are written with the same contractions and general style, and seem not earlier than about 8th to 9th centuries, A.D.

C. R. C.

NOTES ON DR. POST'S PAPER.

I VENTURE to make a few notes on this paper. The existence of the *Beech* in Syria is of some interest philologically, and it would be interesting to know where it occurs. It is known in Asia Minor and in the Caucasus, and grows on chalky soils.

The Papyrus is not confined to the Jordan valley. I have seen it in several places on the coast near Sidon, in the Zerka, and further south, as noted in the "Memoirs."

It is certain that the lion still existed in the Lebanon in 1300 B.C. ("Travels of a Mohar").

It is certain that the crocodile exists in the Zerka, but I found no native who knew of it in the Kishon.

The wild boar is found in the mountains in all parts of Palestine where cover exists.

I have seen supposed specimens of *Tin* from the Lebanon.

Cholera sometimes spreads in the mountains. It reached Safed (3,000 feet above the sea) when I was there in 1874.

The "ancient language" is not confined to a few villages, I think, being recognisable in Fellah speech throughout Palestine.

C. R. C.